

Sharpe and Dresser; or we adopt an unscientific mixture of Latin and English, and speak of

The typical form of *Picus major*,

The arctic form of *Picus major*.

Perhaps, after all, the last is the best, as giving the greatest amount of information with the least strain on the memory, except in the case of intermediate forms. No one can deny that *Picus major-cissa* is a much better phrase than "an intermediate form between the typical and arctic forms of *Picus major*."

XXXII.—*On a new Species of Hemipode from New Britain.*

By W. A. FORBES, B.A., M.B.O.U., Prosector to the Zoological Society.

(Plate XII.)

A FEW months ago I received, through Mr. Sclater, a small collection of birds in spirit from various parts of the world, which had been forwarded to him for identification by Herr J. D. E. Schmeltz, Curator of the Godeffroy Museum in Hamburg. Amongst these was a single specimen (which on dissection proved to be a female) of a small *Turnix* from New Britain, where it had been collected by the late Herr Kleinschmidt, who was murdered by the natives of that inhospitable island shortly afterwards.

I at first thought that this bird was referable to the Australian *Turnix melanonota* of Gould; but having compared it with Gould's types of that species, now in the collection of the Academy of Sciences in Philadelphia, as well as with a series of ten specimens in the British Museum, I am inclined to consider it specifically distinguishable from the Australian bird, and propose therefore to call it

TURNIX SATURATA. (Plate XII.)

Affinis *T. melanonotæ*, sed rostro crassiore magisque curvato, superciliis magis rufescentibus, et colore subtus omnino (præsertim in mento, gula et pectore) intensiore distinguenda.

Long. al. 3·2, tars. ·85 poll. Angl.



PLATE 111. 111. 111.

Besides my specimen I have seen two quite similar ones, also females, one kindly lent me by Canon Tristram, the other in the collection of the British Museum. Both these were collected by Mr. Layard in Blanche Bay, New Britain.

Turnix saturata differs from the Australian *T. melanonota*, to which it is closely allied, in its generally darker colour above, as well as in the greater intensity of the rufous colouring of the underparts, this being not only of a much deeper hue, but extending quite onto the throat and chin, the latter being almost white in Australian examples of *T. melanonota*. The rufous eyebrows are also much more conspicuous, and, as so often happens in insular forms as compared with their continental representatives, the beak is much larger and thicker, besides being more curved and of a dirty yellow colour, as opposed to the generally horny colour of the beak of *T. melanonota*.

T. saturata as yet appears to have been only found in New Britain and the Duke-of-York group*, in which latter locality it was met with by Mr. Layard, Jun. ('Ibis,' 1880, p. 302). It is, I believe, the only species of the Turnicidæ yet known as inhabiting the Papuan Islands, eleven altogether of that group being found in the Australian region. Of these the following is a complete list. Of all of them, except *T. scintillans*, I have seen skins in the collections of the British Museum.

1. TURNIX MELANOGASTER.

Turnix melanogaster, Gould, B. A. v. pl. lxxx. i. ; Handb. ii. p. 178.

Eastern Australia (*Gould*).

2. TURNIX VARIA (Lath.).

Turnix varia (Lath.), Gould, B. A. v. pl. lxxxii. ; Handb. ii. p. 179.

New South Wales, Victoria, S. Australia, and (?) W. Australia (*Gould*); Rockingham Bay &c. (*Ramsay*).

* It remains to be seen what species it is which, according to Mr. Ramsay (*apud* Salvadori, "Prodrömus," Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. xviii. p. 9), occurs near Port Moresby.

3. TURNIX SCINTILLANS.

Turnix scintillans, Gould, B. A. v. pl. lxxxiii.; Handb. ii. p. 181.

Abrolhos Islands, W. Australia (*Gould*).

4. TURNIX MELANONOTA.

Turnix melanotus, Gould, B. A. v. pl. lxxxiv.; Handb. ii. p. 182.

Moreton Bay (*Gould*); Cape York (*H.M.S. 'Challenger'*); Lizard Island (*Jukes* in *B.M.*); Wide Bay, Richmond and Clarence River districts, N. S. Wales, and interior (*Ramsay*).

5. TURNIX SATURATA, mihi.

New Britain (*Layard, Kleinschmidt*); Duke-of-York group (*Layard*).

6. TURNIX RUFESCENS.

Turnix rufescens, Wallace, P. Z. S. 1863, p. 497.

Samao Island, Timor (*Wall.*).

This species I only know from a single specimen obtained by Mr. Wallace, and therefore probably the type of his description (*s. c.*), in the British Museum. This skin is in poor condition; but the species, though near to *T. melanonota*, is apparently a good one, distinguishable by the scapularies having no edging of creamy buff, as in the last-named bird. A further series of specimens will be necessary to decide the question. Mr. Wallace describes the irides as being brown, whilst in *Jukes's* specimen of *T. melanonota* from Lizard Island they are called "white," as also they are in *Layard's* skin of *T. saturata* from New Britain. According to *Blyth* ('*Ibis*,' 1867, p. 162) *T. rufescens* also occurs in Java; he compares it to the Indian *T. tanki* (= *T. dussumieri*, apud *Jerdon*, B. India, iii. p. 599).

7. TURNIX CASTANONOTA.

Turnix castanonotus, Gould, B. A. v. pl. lxxxv.; Handb. ii. p. 183.

Northern and North-western Australia (*Gould*).

8. TURNIX VELOX.

Turnix velox, Gould, B. A. v. pl. lxxxvii.; Handb. ii. p. 185.

Australia, from Swan river to New South Wales (*Gould*); Port Denison, Wide Bay, and Clarence River districts (*Ramsay*).

9. TURNIX PYRRHOTHORAX.

Turnix pyrrhоторax, Gould, B. A. v. pl. lxxxvi.; Handb.

ii. p. 186.

East Australia (*Gould*).

10. TURNIX RUFILATUS.

Turnix rufilatus, Wall. P. Z. S. 1865, p. 480.

Celebes : Macassar (*Wall.*).

11. PEDIONOMUS TORQUATUS.

Pedionomus torquatus, Gould, B. A. v. pl. lxxx.; Handb.

ii. p. 187.

Plains of Central Australia (*Gould*).

XXXIII.—Notes on a Collection of Birds made on the River Yang-tse-kiang. By Rev. H. H. SLATER, F.Z.S.

THE collection contains seventy-one skins belonging to forty-three species, and was formed in the months of September, October, and November 1880, on the Yang-tse-kiang, between Hankow and Quaichow-foo, by Mrs. W. G. Greig and Dr. Reid, of Hankow.

HYPOTRIORCHIS SUBBUTEO (L.).

One adult male, in very brilliant plumage; shot at Hankow.

ATHENE WHITELYI (Bl.).

One specimen, apparently a female from the size. The length of the wing less than that given by Père David ('Oiseaux de la Chine'), being only 15 centim. (5·9 inches), instead of 17·5 centim. Killed at Hankow.

ASIO ACCIPITRINUS (Pall.).

One specimen, male, Woonchung.